



The Living Reef

January 2009

Next meeting: Wednesday 28th January @ 7:30pm

Hi guys & girls,

Welcome to the New Year! Hope that your New Year resolutions include something for your watery friends and that your tank survives well during this recent heat wave.

This month's meeting will be at Ben Michell's place in Mullaloo. Ben is 15 years old and already has 3 tanks under his belt! The current tank (6x2x2) is looking great and is a combination of his previous two tanks (a 3' and a 4'). Some members might recognise the tank as Ben bought the setup from Ross (Kranky).

There will also be a guest speaker for the evening, Dr Richard Loh who is a Fish Vet, should be interesting!

Welcome to all our new members. Hope to see you at this month's meeting, or at one of our other upcoming events next year.

Ronald Tan

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RTAW Reefpedia

This wiki has been established as an **encyclopaedia of reef keeping** by the [Marine Aquarium Societies of Australia \(MASA\)](#).

MASWA Calendar....

7:30pm, Wednesday 28th January – Guest Speaker Meeting
Host: Ben Mitchell, 38 Contour Drive, Mullaloo

Wednesday 25th February
AGM
Host: Cicerello's Fremantle

Wednesday 25th March
Special Raffle
Host: Adam

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2008

WEB ADDRESS

www.masa.asn.au/masa/maswa

EMAIL

maswa@masa.asn.au

President – General Enquiries

Shona Whaite – 0428 746 620
me@shona.org

Vice President – General Enquiries

Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059
stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries

Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264
paul@pmtco.com.au

Secretary – Membership Enquiries

Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108
chris@aussiereef.com.au

Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions

Ronald Tan – 0414 725 322
hydrocarbon@iprimus.com.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries

Vacant

Social Coordinator – meeting venues, advertising enquiries, raffle donations, even "just to be sociable"

Chris Stevens – 0419 915 116
cstevens@bigpond.net.au

Frag Fest Co-ordinator

Daniel Morgan – 0401 363 167
waveserpent@hotmail.com

General Committee

Lou Athanasiou – 0418 358 092
macfixit3@bigpond.com

David Sarre – 0418 358 092

macfixit3@bigpond.com

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

Cheque/money order: Please make payable to MASWA

EFT: BSB 086-136, A/C 8724 73681
A/C name: MASWA Inc.
(please include your name on all EFT transfers!)

Cash: Make cash payment in person only.

Postal Address:

MASWA
c/o Paul Tayler
PO Box 7185
Shenton Park, WA 6008

Classifieds

Sfiligoi Flite Chiller \$500 with brand new controller. Specification says that it is suitable for up to 500 litres with a temperature draw down of 5°C but to be on the safe side, I would recommend it for system up to 300 litres.

Contact: Ronald Tan - 0414725322 or email hydrocarbon@iprimus.com.au

Clownfish Breeding Gear \$10,000

Full clownfish breeding setup including tanks (23 no), skimmers, heaters, pumps, etc.

Click on the following link for details: [Clownfish](#)

Contact: Stuart Borlase – 9409 9764 or 0419 902 157

Salifert Calcium Test Kits \$25, expiry 07-2011.

Contact: Samuel Goon – 0433 820 218



Your stuff for sale here!

Please try to keep it aquarium related (equipment, fish, corals, etc)

Email a committee member to get your ad shown!

MASWA Message Board....

MASWA AGM

The MASWA AGM is in February. So if you were thinking of contributing to the society, now would be a good time to think it through and let the committee know.

We need people to volunteer to contribute to the team for the benefit of the society, as we are a non-profit organization. Similarly, if you know of anyone who may be interested, please approach them to see if they would like to nominate for a position.

Remember, we need volunteers to make this work to make it another successful year!

FISHERIES SUBMISSION

MASWA have recently made a submission to the WA Department of Fisheries regarding their proposed aquaculture licensing system.

This proposal has been in discussion between the Department and industry for several years, and affects hobbyists as aquaculture covers the creation of manufactured live rock, seeding of live sand and coral fragging (all things we participate in & encourage).

Although our submission was late we hope to be involved in the decision making process. More information will be available soon. Thanks to Chris Stevens for organising our submission.

MASWA SPONSORSHIP

Our new advertising & sponsorship program is off to a great start. The program involves 2 tiers

Tier 1 is basically a mutual advertising swap where we advertise the business in several spots, and in exchange the business lets us place a pamphlet in their store. We hope this will raise awareness of our Society and lead to more members & an even more active club.

Tier 2 is a sponsorship agreement where the business donates vouchers, goods or a discount, and in return we organise extra advertising plus a space in our monthly newsletter.

All MASWA members will soon be receiving the "MASWA Printed Business Directory" - a hardcopy listing of all participating businesses. This will be sent out with your 2009 membership card. The Online Business Directory is also available 24/7 at www.masa.asn.au (click on Business Directory tab). We encourage you to support the businesses that support MASWA (and MASA).

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE!

MASWA Membership runs from January - December of each year. To renew your membership for 2009, please see payment details under membership payment above. If payment is not received before the 31st of March, you will not receive any more newsletters.

MASWA TEST KITS

Free water testing

MASWA members are able to bring along water samples to any meeting and test their water.

This is handy to verify your own test kits, or to try a kit you don't have at home.

The kits are mainly Salifert tests and include pH, Calcium, Carbonate Hardness/ Alkalinity, Nitrate and Silicate.



Chris also brings along his Phosphate Light Meter and MASWA now has a Refractometer to test the salinity of your water.

This is a great free resource so be sure to take advantage of it.

If you are unsure of how to test your water, bring along about 100ml and ask for help (also free!)

DID YOU KNOW?

That *Lophelia pertusa* builds reefs without the need of sunlight and can be found at a depth up to 3,000 metres!

Read more about this at [Norway's Institute of Marine Research](http://www.marinebio.com) site.



Last Months Meeting Rundown...

The Christmas meeting was held at Todd and Amanda's place in Duncraig. Todd's tank is a sumless 6'x2'x2' system but despite that was still doing reasonably well. Frags that were collected from the recent frag fest are also growing well in Todd and Amanda's tank.

As usual, being a Christmas meeting, everyone who attends ended up winning one of the fabulous prizes.©

Congratulations to all prizewinners!



The Marine Aquarists Society of WA is a name that we, as a group of friends with like interests have applied to ourselves for the purpose of information exchange. No one person, nor the group as a whole, can be held responsible for liabilities, injuries or other that may result either directly or indirectly as a result of our gatherings or the information exchange therein. The same applies to the information contained in this newsletter.

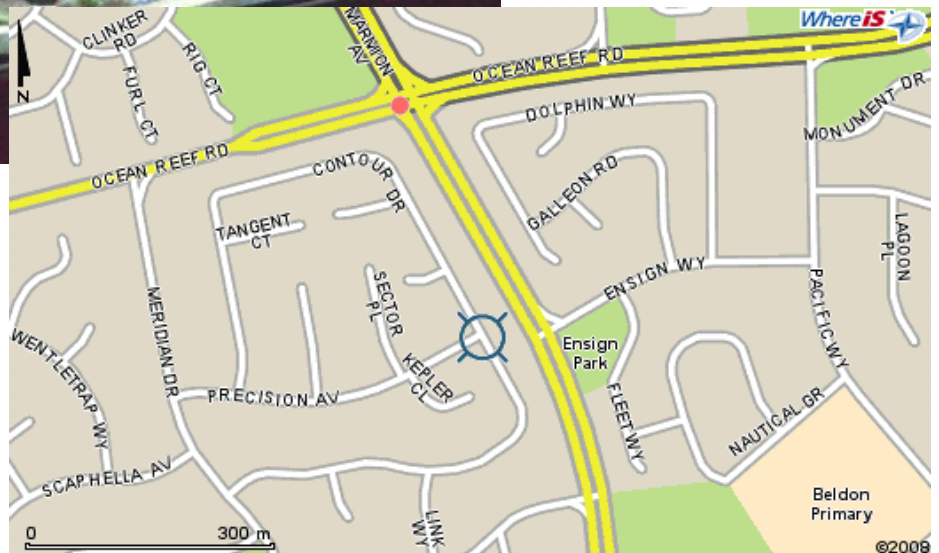
Upcoming Meeting Information....

January's meeting is at Ben Mitchell's place in Mullaloo. Ben is only 15 but has already had 3 tanks under his belt! The current one being Ross's old 6'x2'x2'. People will remember Ross's tank former glory before degenerated. Everyone will be hoping to see Ben bring the tank back to its former glory, including Ross!

This meeting is also a Guest Speaker meeting and we have Dr Richard Loh who is a vet specializing in fish. Should make for an interesting evening.

The meeting starts at 7:30pm and the address is 38 Contour Drive, Mullaloo.

Hope to see you all there!



Formalities to the meeting will be:

- President address
- Introduce new members
- Guest Speaker
- Host's Talk on His Tank
- General Discussion
- Door Prize & Raffle Drawn
- Wind-up

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Fishy Links And News

From 'Reefing the Australian Way' Forum ...

[Help!! I am new to this and I am in urgent need of advice](#)

White spots again! Also the misinformation that usually goes with it!

[Reducing Nitrates](#)

New setup, cycling and reducing Nitrates...

[Profilux Computer Controller Thread](#)

For those of you who likes a fully automated reef system ...

[Interstate trading of acros](#)

Coral cultivation is the way of the future. With cultivation, there has to be trading. Learn how to ship that precious cargo correctly to minimise losses...

[Mandarin appreciation thread](#)

They are beautiful, peaceful fishes but often hard to keep. If you are really set on have one, at least learn as much as you can about it!



Feature Articles

Top Ten Reasons Why You Don't Quarantine Your New Fish...

10) I like living life on the edge... no health insurance, no car insurance, no savings, no parachute... and no quarantine... is that so wrong?

9) Still a mystery to me; the quarantine tank somehow morphed into a beautiful heavily-stocked nano reef.

8) I don't quarantine my new fish because if I did, fish keeping would be much less challenging. And I'm all about the challenge, baby!

1) Everyone's doing it.

Read them all here: <http://www.reefkeeping.com/issues/2009-01/tt/index.php>.

Chemistry - Adding Some Science to your Tank (Part 2)

Last month we talked about instrumental and volumetric (drop count) methods for determining water quality. Salinity, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), alkalinity and calcium are some of the most important test run on any marine tank and can be done instrumentally or by drop count. Ammonia, on the other hand, is not determined by drop count and, although there are instruments that can determine it, they are normally out of the financial means of the new aquarist.

Thankfully, in the mid 1800's a whole group of German scientists found fairly simple ways of determining the concentration of a wide variety of substances. Historical names like Adolph Baeyer, August Beer, and Julius Nessler (Neßler actually) all were interested in dyes and how they reacted to light. Clothing dyes were a big business in those days and much research was centered on how colors were produced. Soon it was discovered that certain organic compounds and bases would react in a fixed fashion with other chemicals, or reagents.

Subsequently, the most popular method of testing is the use of colorimetric test kits. In these tests, a reagent is added to a fresh sample of tank water, which creates a color whose **intensity** increases in proportion to the concentration of substance that the test kit detects. This color increase is compared to a color standard chart that tells you how much of the compound is present in your water.



Read the full article at <http://www.reefkeeping.com/issues/2008-12/newbie/index.php>

MASWA Sponsors....

MASWA now has nine commercial sponsors! MASWA sponsors receive an advertisement (for monthly specials, etc) and a banner in the newsletter each month. Depending upon what has been agreed with the sponsor they may offer MASWA such things as member discounts, donations of goods, gift vouchers or special offers.

Advertisements in The Living Reef do not necessarily reflect MASWA endorsement of any product, service or advice offered by the advertised business. If you are interested in becoming a MASWA Sponsor, please contact Chris Sutton on 0419 858 108 or email: maswa@masa.asn.au



Fremantle Ocean Farm generously donate one free water change to all new members who join MASWA, and 2 free water changes vouchers for the raffles



Veba's generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles

A Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St, O'Connor WA 6163

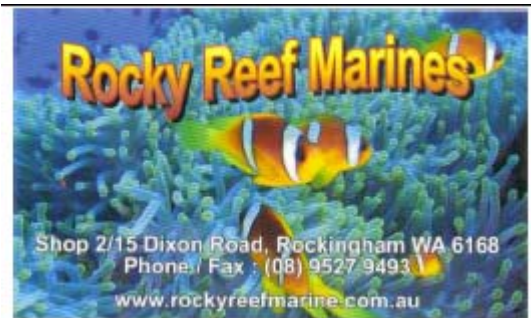
W www.vebas.com.au **Ph** (08) 9314 7630

E vebas@vebas.com.au

Open 7 Days 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Thurs 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM)

At time of press, we have not receive the ads from our other sponsors below, this will be added to the next issue of our newsletter or as soon as we receive them.

Aquarium One – Rockingham
Seaview Aquariums – Westminster
City Farmers – Joondalup
Ocean Reefs Marine – Wangara
Totally Tanked - Kenwick



E info@rockyreefmarine.com.au

Rocky Reef Marine has generously donated gift vouchers and products for the MASWA raffles. Come and see Martin and Marc and show your MASWA member card for a 10% discount.

Suppliers of quality net caught fish from Vanuatu and the Islands. Also a Large selection of corals and inverts.

Eye Candy....

MASA December Tank of the Month...



Check out <http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=197096> for the full write up and more pics.

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